

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for meeting with me last week during parent/teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress. It is hard to believe that it is already March and we have started the last trimester of the year. We also had a blast at the DuPage Children's Museum this week! Students participated in some hands-on learning of the different simple machines and had the opportunity to explore everything the museum had to offer. A big thank you goes out to our chaperones for spending the day with us at the museum!

In reading, students have been participating in book clubs. This gives students an opportunity to talk not just in partnerships, but in small groups. Each book club sets a reading assignment during each book club meeting. Students are learning the importance of staying in sync with each other in order to have meaningful conversations. Each book club is embarking on a journey with a strong main character. Students are learning that characters in books face a series of hurdles, react to these hurdles in some way, and eventually tackle these hurdles.

In writing, we have transitioned out of the nonfiction writing unit. I hope you enjoyed reading through your students' informational books. As we approach Spring Break, students are working on a variety of smaller writing pieces- story responses, narrative prompts, and finishing up a narrative story. They are working with partners to help revise and edit their work. Our next major writing unit will be on fairytales. I am sure the students will explode with creativity on this one!



We wrapped up our unit on area and perimeter in math, and are now extending our learning of multiplication. Our unit at the beginning of the year focused on multiplying 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's. Now we are focusing on multiplying by 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. We are using cube trains, arrays, and the break apart strategy to figure out facts that the students may not know. Practicing math facts in the car or at home can be fun.

The students continue to learn about forces and interactions, and how they are used to do work, by building compound machines. Students are solving a problem (making something easier) within our classroom by constructing models of compound machines. Some examples include a machine that can help a student raise their hand, a machine that will help transport heavy bins, and a machine that will get bins from the high shelves in the room. Students will also be learning about the pull and push of magnetism. Please point out simple machines that you see around you: inclined planes, wedges, screws, levers, pulleys, and wheels and axles.

It's time to think about summer school! District 90's Summer School program will be in session from Monday, June 18th through Friday, July 17th, with no classes on July 3rd. Students entering Kindergarten-4th grade will be at Willard Elementary and students entering 5th-8th grade will be at Roosevelt Middle School. Registration opens on Friday, March 1st at 12:00 p.m. and closes on April 18th. Click on the link for the brochure and to register— <https://www.district90.org/about/summer-school>.

Just to let you know...

Pi Day, is coming up on March 14 (3.14)!



Spirit week is the week of March 16th - March 20th:

Monday, March 16- Mixed up Monday-

-Mix up your clothes, wear tacky colors, crazy socks, wear your clothes backwards or crazy hair!

Tuesday, March 17- Go Green Tuesday- St. Patrick's Day

-Wear as much green as possible

Wednesday, March 18-Cozy-up and Read Day-

-Wear your favorite pajamas, bring your favorite book and get ready to Drop Everything And Read several times throughout the day!

Thursday, March 19- Wear RED for Lincoln and Hat Day-

Wear your Lincoln spiritwear, red and your favorite or craziest hat!

Friday, March 20- Vacation Friday-

-Celebrate the start of Spring Break by wearing your favorite vacation shirt and sunglasses!

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Ponzio